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APRIL 11 / 2002 [54.30]

makin' dirty laundry for 53 years

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Mark Samcoe does it better than most. Laundry, we mean. He's like Buddha, or Jesus or John Lennon. And soap suds. It's all about soap suds. That's what Mark likes to say when he's on. He's crazy like that. Cherubic, even. Check out his story on the ghetto aesthetic of the laundromat and the sacred chore of keeping your clothes clean. Read it on page 10; ladies?

Students join First Nations in urging referendum boycott

by David Ball

More than two million B.C. voters have now received their ballots.

The province's controversial referendum on treaty negotiations arrived in mailboxes over the past few weeks. Citizens are being asked to register their opinions on eight treaty-negotiating principles regarding land use, property, governance and tax issues. Voters have until May 15 to return their ballots to the province's elections commission.

The University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) is opposed to the referendum and is urging students to boycott the referendum by bringing their ballots to the SUB.

"It's a illegitimate process," said Troy Sebastian, incoming chair of the UVSS and firekeeper for the Native Students Union. "The questions are so ambiguously worded – intentionally. They're there to guide people to a Yes vote."

"The veil's pretty thin on this one," he said. "You don't have to dig too deep to see the interests of an elite minority in the government."

Sebastian said the UVSS is following the lead of major First Nations organizations in the province in advocating a boycott. A collection box will be set up in the Resource Centre in the SUB, where students can bring their ballots, instead of sending them to the government. These ballots will join the province-wide boycott campaign.

Both aboriginal and non-aboriginal groups have expressed outrage at the treaty referendum.

"This little piece of paper has created the biggest controversy that British Columbia has ever seen," said Chief Judith Sayers of the Hupacasath First Nation. "It is creating anger, it is creating racism, it is creating fear. This government does not know what it has unleashed."

The BC Liberals believe that the referendum will unleash only positive forces for First Nations in B.C. by improving the treaty process.

"We're trying to give the people of British Columbia direct input into the principles the province should have to follow for treaty negotiations," said Attorney General Geoff Plant in an interview. "We have put together a set of principles that would help the province. We support those principles. That's why we encourage people to vote Yes."

Plant said the referendum would improve the quality of life of aboriginal people in British Columbia, by improving the treaty process.

But some critics consider such statements hypocritical.

"For him to presume that he's helping out aboriginal children is total B.S.," said Sebastian. "With all the cuts to welfare and treaty negotiations – the truth is this is a process to limit negotiations."

While referendum opponents talk about human rights, the government is also thinking about rights – private property rights. Commenting on one of the referendum questions about land expropriation, Plant said, "Expropriation is expensive and means taking people's rights away."

At an April 4 press conference Chief Judith Sayers and several other First Nations leaders burned ballots in protest. Several weeks ago the Hupacasath First Nation unsuccessfully sought an injunction to block the mailing of the ballots. They argued that the referendum's principles were illegal and would undermine the treaty process. A constitutional challenge is also planned.

"What's the next referendum going to be held on?" asked Allan Weselowski, chief of the Ulkatcho Indian Band and chair of the Carrier-Chilcotin Tribal Council. "It could be you. Today it's me."

Weselowski said the burning of the ballots was merely symbolic and urged British Columbians to participate in an "active boycott."

"What we're suggesting is they simply don't just throw the ballot in the trash bin like a lot of people might be inclined to do."

Plant said he disagrees with the boycott tactic.

"A boycott is a political statement that doesn't move us forward," he said. "I'm not denying that people have the right to do it. But a more constructive activity is to vote."

With files from Stephen Hui, BURNABY (CUP)

Churches and First Nations unite. See p. 3
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Fate of South Chilcotin Park hangs on BC Liberal decision

by Kelsey Dundon and Lorna Mace

The fate of South Chilcotin Mountains Park will be determined by the BC Liberals' first land-use decision, expected within the next three weeks.

In a presentation on April 4, a coalition of conservation, recreation, tourism and community (CRTC) groups expressed concern over the BC Liberals' upcoming decision on the Lillooet Land Use Plan. The Lillooet region is 200 kilometres north of Vancouver and includes South Chilcotin Park.

"It took 60 years to create a park. It was done last year and now the Liberals want to take it apart," said Vicky Husband, conservation chair for the Sierra Club of BC.

The conservation area, encompassing 71,000 hectares of wilderness, was first proposed in 1937. In April 2001 the NDP agreed to introduce Phase One of the Lillooet Land and Resources Management Plan shortly before the provincial election the following month.

The decision protected the wilderness habitats of species at high risk, including grizzly bears.

Seven months later the newly elected Liberal government scrapped the plan. They announced that a government team would create a new plan under the authority of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM).

"Many have worked very hard for over 60 years," said Husband. "It is really a breach of trust and a broken promise."

A draft of the BC Liberal proposal suggests reductions to protected areas and to the size of South Chilcotin Park, which could open the area for mining and logging. The decision to abandon the existing plan was heavily criticized by CRTC members.

"The Liberals are smart. They are not proposing to decommission a park, but in reality, it's just as bad as doing that," said Ken Wu, campaign director with the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. "They're just proposing to eliminate the forested valleys, where most of the biological diversity is."

The MSRM released their proposed plan for the Lillooet region on March 11. It includes three options, all of which significantly reduce the size of protected areas and allow more access for B.C. logging and mining industries.

Bill Wareham, executive director of the Sierra Club of B.C., noted that recent events in the softwood lumber dispute may have made the government more sympathetic to the needs of the logging and mining industries.

Canada has been fighting the United States for several years over their increase in import tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber. After intense meetings earlier this year, the U.S. opted to raise the tariffs to 19.3 per cent. Canada argues this tax will severely cripple the Canadian lumber industry.

"It's difficult timing because the forestry industry is on its knees," said Wareham.

Losing environmental protection will also have an economic cost, members of the CRTC coalition said.

"The problem is that the government could pinpoint a small area and determine how much that logging is worth," said Jim Johnson, managing principal for Pacific Analytics, an economic consulting firm. "But there is no such thing for tourism."

The Lillooet area is a popular destination for international and local tourists. The varied terrain is used for hiking, ski-touring, snowmobiling, kayaking and ice climbing.

According to Johnson, the tourism industry generates over $10 million from South Chilcotin Mountains Park. One million dollars of that goes directly to the government. But if the area is logged, some groups worry that revenue from tourism could disappear.

"The important aspect is its sustainability," Johnson said.

Norma Wilson, executive director of the Recreation Council, agreed with Johnson.

"This type of vast wilderness is increasingly rare in the southern part of the province," said Wilson. "We're not making more of it in B.C. or anywhere in the world. Recreation and tourism depend on these large wilderness areas."

While environmental groups await the Liberals' decision, Bob Peart spokesperson for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society BC Chapter urged the public to get involved.

"Write your letters, phone your MLAs, take action," he said.

Women on the move towards self-acceptance

by Heather Neale

The second annual Women on the Move event, coming to the University of Victoria on April 27, provides a chance for women to spend a day trying out new activities for size.

But wait, size doesn't matter.

Co-sponsored by the BC Eating Disorders Association (BCEDA) and the UVic Athletics and Recreation Department, the day-long event offers women the opportunity to exercise in a safe, non-competitive, uncalculated environment. The event aims to change women's perception of exercise away from a focus on body image toward fun activities, like dancing and meditation.

"Society has this idea about what fitness and health look like," said Jennifer Gibson, program and project coordinator for the BC Eating Disorders Association. "But [this event] is about defining things on our own terms, rather than according to a scale or mirror. It can be a really dangerous relationship otherwise."

Exercise programs in books and magazines, just like diets, are put together for a general audience and often fail to meet individuals' needs. Everyone has different genetic make up, different interests and very different attitudes towards health, Gibson said.

There is no one set formula.

Women on the Move offers a series of activities for participants to try including belly dancing, meditation, tai chi, afro jazz, hip hop dance, kick boxing, walking and yoga. Each participant can choose three activities.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and proceeds go to the BCEDA, a resource for people suffering from eating disorders. The association also acts as a support service for family and friends.

The UVic Athletics and Recreation Department is excited about the prospects of such an event.

"We are hoping to target mothers and teenaged daughters, as well as university-aged students," said Winona Pugh, coordinator of recreation at UVic.

The department originally got involved with the BCEDA by helping out with Eating Disorders Awareness Week. With UVic's Peer Helpers, the group started a wellness committee to provide accurate information about nutrition to students on campus. Since the one nutritionist position at Health Services moved from a free to a fee-based service, nutritional resources on campus are limited.

One in four students at university deals with disordered eating, Pugh said.

She worries about students she sees excessively working out. Some lack the nutrition necessary to sustain such strenuous activity, she said.

"We've even seen some students faint from exhaustion," Pugh said.

The idea that healthy equals skinny is bunk, she said.

Women on the Move emphasizes the need to shift society's perception away from a focus on body image and weight, towards the goal of feeling good.

It also emphasizes a vocabulary shift from exercise and fitness towards movement and activity.

"Even taking out the garbage is movement," said Gibson.

Gibson, who suffered from disordered eating and exercising knows firsthand what a prison those behaviours can be.

"When I think about the focus and energy that I put into thinking about how much to eat and when to exercise, I realize I didn't really have time or want time for anything else," she said. "Being engaged in the purging of calories through exercise looks normal. We are socialized into thinking that to be fit is to run 10 kilometres; to be fit is to be a competitive athlete, rather than doing it for recreation."

Gibson remembers running daily for hours and never feeling good. She says she focused on her weight, and on taking control over her body.

Now, along with other instructors, Gibson is volunteering her time to make this event a success.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Various women shake it down at Asmira's School of Oriental Bellydance.

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Trek for treaties joins church groups with aboriginals

by David Ball

When Leonard James left a therapy session for First Nations residential school survivors in Duncan, he never expected he'd be walking all the way to Victoria to oppose the BC Liberal treaty referendum.

James is a Cowichan First Nations man who survived the Catholic-run Kuper Island residential school. He joined non-aboriginal church members on the "Trek for Treaties," a week-long walk to the legislature buildings in Victoria. They arrived on April 5 and burned ballots in protest of what they consider a racist referendum.

The trekkers were met at the legislature by an alliance of aboriginal and non-aboriginal supporters.

"If this treaty referendum goes through, the last 10 years of treaty negotiations are gone," said Rose Henry, an activist with the Capital Region Race Relations Association who spoke at the rally. "We're talking millions and millions of dollars. This referendum is going to make a huge difference to us. To me this is a subtle form of genocide."

Nearly 150 people formed a circle and held hands on the legislature steps. They were joined by a group of Nuu-chah-nulth drummers from Ahousat. Several First Nations people set fire to their referendum ballots, hoping to send a strong message to the government.

The week-long trek started in Nanaimo on April 1 and was organized by Aboriginal Neighbours, an Anglican Church group which opposes the treaty referendum. The trekkers met with indigenous people along the way, who were invited to join them for the walk.

Gloria Cope, an Anglican Church member who helped organize the walk, said now is the time for non-aboriginal people to stand up for native rights.

"The government should get back to the treaty table," Cope said. "We're offended by this game they're playing. It's an insult to First Nations. And it's an insult to me as a human being that my brothers and sisters should have to endure this. We're going to walk side by side and stand up with them."

The B.C. government mailed out referendum packages to 2.2 million voters last month, despite a recent court case that challenged the referendum's constitutionality. The ballots must be returned by May 15. They ask voters whether they agree with eight principles for treaty negotiations.

According to the British Columbia Referendum Office (BCRO), a Yes vote will be binding on the government, but a No vote will not be binding.

"The question asks, 'do you agree or disagree that these should be guiding principles' " said Kate Thompson, of the BCRO. "A Yes vote is binding on government in that they will use them as guiding principles. A No vote means they don't necessarily have to follow those guiding principles."

At an April 2 press conference Attorney General Geoff Plant urged British Columbians to vote yes.

"If people want to move forward beyond the failed Indian Act model, they should vote Yes," Plant said.

But it is not only First Nations groups who oppose the referendum. A growing number of Christian churches have taken a stand on the referendum issue alongside First Nations people. For many, it signals a new direction for churches that ran residential schools and aided colonization.

The arrival of the Trek for Treaties in Victoria coincided with the release of a historic letter from B.C. leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, which was read out on April 7 in all Anglican churches in the province. The letter urged voters to oppose the referendum by voting No or spoiling their ballots.

The United Church of Canada, another major Christian denomination in B.C., also opposes the treaty vote.

"This is where the church needs to be. This is our faith," said Tanis van Drimmelen, president of the United Church's BC Conference. She said the church must stand with those who are often voiceless and more vulnerable. "First Nations people have been walking this road alone far too long," she said.

Other groups are urging voters to oppose the vote altogether by sending ballots instead to First Nations groups, to be counted and publicized in protest. The UVic Student Society (UVSS), for instance, is collecting boycotted ballots in the Resource Centre in the SUB.

While there is disagreement over tactics, opponents believe the message is the same.

"We are all saying the same thing," said van Drimmelen. "This referendum is ill-devised."

For Snuneymuxw elder Rose Scow, who joined the Trek for Treaties in her wheelchair, the referendum is a reminder that colonization continues every day.

"It's a big no. You can't do this kind of thing all the time," she said. "I want my peace. I want to say no sometimes."

The presence of church groups in opposing the referendum means a lot to aboriginal people like Leonard James, who spent over four years in a residential school and is just beginning to heal.

"It really seems to me that they are here to support us now and not to put us down," James said. "That's what blows me away. We're being helped, not subjected to abuse. It's like a dream coming true."

photo by David Ball

First Nations and their supporters demonstrate at the legislature after walking from Duncan.

To vote or not to vote. . . .

For many students, what to do about the treaty referendum is a confusing jumble of ever-changing strategies. Here are a few of them:

The active boycott

Supported by the majority of First Nations groups, the "active" boycott strategy involves voters redirecting their ballots to collection boxes, like the one in the SUB Resource Centre, and not to the government. Results will be independently counted. Make sure the ballot is in the secrecy envelope with the declaration signed.

Pro: Opposes the referendum; gets publicity.
Con: Vote not included in government count.

Spoiling your ballot

This strategy rejects the referendum by returning your ballot to the government blank or with a comment. Although spoiled ballots will be counted, Elections BC has removed the option for a "protest vote." Fake referendum ballots can be downloaded at http://arcbc.tripod.com

Pro: Inclusion in government count.
Con: Less media publicity than active boycott.

Voting No

This means simply answering all eight referendum questions No and returning the ballots to the government by May 15. This shows opposition to the government's agenda but is not supported by First Nations organizations because participating gives legitimacy to a majority vote on Native rights.

Pro: Counteracts a Yes vote.
Con: No votes are not binding; shows support for the referendum itself.

Voting Yes

This is the strategy endorsed by the government. It binds provincial treaty negotiators to the eight principles of the referendum, including municipal-style self-government and ending First Nations tax exemptions.

Pro: The government says it is a path to certainty, finality and equality.
Con: It has raised fierce opposition from First Nations and supporters, who say it is racist.

Confused?

Check out some sites for more information:

BC Referendum Action Network:
www.treatyinjustice.org
First Nations Summit:
www.fns.bc.ca
Aboriginal Rights Coalition:
arcbc.tripod.com
British Columbia Referendum Office:
www.treatyreferendum.ca
Ministry of Attorney General Treaty Negotiations Office:
www.gov.bc.ca/tno

Sources: *BC Referendum Action Network, BC Referendum Office*
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News Briefs

University too expensive, say high school students

by Kevin Groves

B.C.'s high school students worry about how they will pay for their first year of university in the wake of recent tuition fee hikes.

With 30 per cent tuition increases set to kick in at B.C.'s universities as early as May 1, high-school student leaders are vocal in their frustration.

"Now it's just too expensive for us to go to school, period," said Brian Duggin, president of Cariboo Hill Secondary School's student council in Burnaby.

Haven Anderson, a spokesperson for the Vancouver District Student Council, the body that represents most high school student organizations in the Lower Mainland, agreed.

"If I dreamed about being a doctor, how am I supposed to pay for that now?" she said.

Duggin said that in the new climate of skyrocketing tuition, first-year enrollment at B.C. universities will likely decrease.

"Instead, high school students will probably flood the colleges," he said.

Lia Bruschetta, a member of Notre Dame Secondary's student council in Vancouver, added that a fierce battle for financial assistance will likely take place over the summer.

"A lot of students here are starting to realize that their marks are going to have to be much higher so they can get scholarships," she said. "Everyone's on the Net looking for money right now."

More drastic measures are also being taken to deal with the economic constraints of increased tuition, said Bruschetta.

She said that a lot of her fellow students have decided to avoid enrollment at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University because the cost is too high.

"So what we're seeing are students scaling back on their lifetime goals," she said.

Still, Bruschetta said she will attend UBC next year and has applied for a number of scholarships to help pay for it.

"Right now I'm crossing my fingers," she said. "I will also hold a steady job this fall and am lucky because my parents are pretty good about helping me out."

Acupressure practitioner arrives just in time for exams

by Heather Neale

UVic's newest health service has arrived just in time to soothe the aches and pains of exam-related stress.

The campus's first acupressure practitioner, Cheryl Sacamano, is excited to introduce staff and students to this alternative form of health care. Her timing couldn't be better. She comes at a time when the state of mainstream health care can sometimes be more of a pain than a pleasure.

Originally from the US, Sacamano comes from a place where "people are used to paying out of pocket for good health care," she said. Canadians are not yet hip to this concept, despite the often unspoken two-tiered nature of our system, she added.

Sacamano lived in Halifax for 20 years, as well as living short stints in Japan and Mexico before coming to Victoria to finish her training at the Canadian Acupressure Institute.

She now practices Jin Shin Do, an Asian bodywork therapy based on the five element theory. This theory breaks the body down into the five elements of fire, water, earth, metal and wood.

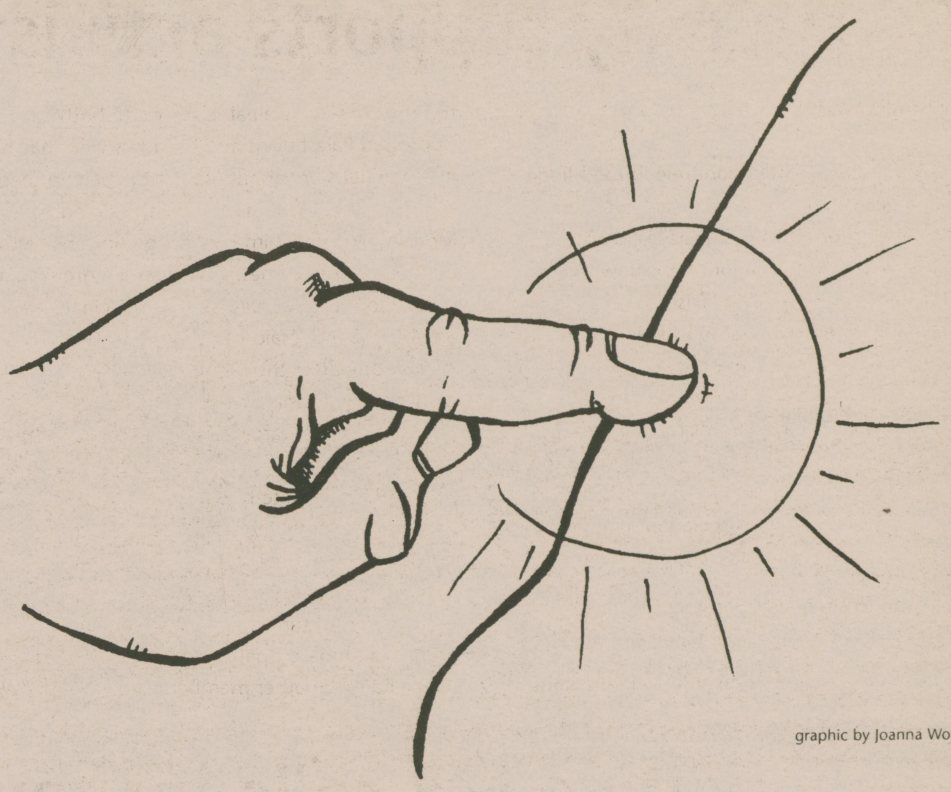
"It's about balancing chi flows in the body," said Sacamano. "People are not quite as vulnerable with this as with massage but are still able to achieve deep relaxation."

Massage therapy patients must remove their clothes, which opens the door for hygiene concerns as well as emotional vulnerability. In contrast, Jin Shin Do does not require patients to remove their clothes.

Sacamano has a BA in home economics and nutrition and takes a holistic approach to her practice.

"It's a mind-body approach," she said.

Sacamano works on contract and operates out of UVic Health Services. She will set up an information booth in the SUB once a semester. Her next booth will be open in the summer.



graphic by Joanna Wong

Fee increases affect SUB renters·

by Suzanne Beaubien

Student Union Building (SUB) renters will see a 47 per cent increase in their monthly rent fees as of May 1.

At a finance committee meeting in March the UVSS voted to increase Triple Net fees for all businesses and groups that rent space in the SUB. Triple Net is the flat rate that includes all utility, maintenance and janitorial costs.

"We think it's a reasonable increase," said Finance Director Jonas Gifford. "The SUB is an expensive building to maintain. We need to allocate the costs across the users."

Currently, businesses and student groups pay the same flat rate of $3.70 per square foot per year. The cost will go up to $5.45 as of May 1.

For the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG), a group that keeps an office in the SUB, this will mean a $770.35 increase in next year's fees. *The Martlet* will also have to pay an increase of $1572.90.

Stacy Chappel, director of VIPIRG, said she is upset about the increased cost because the costs don't reflect the actual use.

"We're members of the UVSS," she said. "Our members own the building."

Non-profit groups like VIPIRG pay the same rate as SUB businesses such as Travel CUTS and Discovery Computers.

Chappel also said she is concerned about the short notice given to SUB groups. "One month's notice is not enough," she said. "What is our right to information? I have to budget too."

While Chappel received a memo about the increase on March 28, other groups have still not been notified about the changes.

UVSS Director at Large Adam Peters was at the finance committee meeting where the decision was made. He said he's opposed to the increase because it affects students and businesses the same way. "It doesn't seem right hurting the groups that represent students," he said.

As of press time, both CFUV and the Sexual Assault Centre had received no word of the Triple Net increases.

UVSS constituency groups, such as Pride, the Women's Centre, currently don't pay Triple Net fees. But both the Women's Centre and Pride expect the issue will come up when they meet to renew their leases later this year.

Eliza Walter, director of the Women's Centre said their lease has run out and they're worried about the possibility of paying Triple Net fees.

"It'll affect us quite a bit," she said. "And it will become really important when we negotiate constituency groups funding in the fall."

The Pride collective's lease also runs out in September. Ayla Lepine, Pride director, said they will fight the implementation of Triple Net fees. "Our current constitution outlines that we will not pay for Triple Net for this space," she said. "We're a constituency group. We don't make any money."

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Community supports activist's Middle East action

by Brodie Waddell

As bloody street battles continue in the Middle East, a dedicated mix of peace activists and Palestinian supporters gathered beside the legislative buildings on April 5 to show their admiration for local Kevin Neish.

Neish left for Israel last month as a human rights observer. He is a member of the International Solidarity Movement, an organization dedicated to maintaining an international presence in the occupied territories. In Victoria Neish is known for his work with the Fernwood Community Association. Last fall at an anti-poverty protest, police commandeered Neish's cardboard house built in protest of poor Victorian's living conditions. Police escorted him home.

Long-time activist Angus Morton said Neish's trip provides an invaluable service to both oppressed Palestinians and outsiders who may not hear the full story about what is happening there.

"It's a wonderful thing [Neish] is doing," said Morton. "We owe him a lot for getting the truth out about these crimes. Our ranks are growing as more and more people begin to see what's going on in the world," said Morton.

Morton added the group deliberately chose to gather at the Spanish Civil War memorial.

Some demonstrators saw a parallel between these soldiers' personal decision to fight overseas in the 1930s, despite their persecution by the Canadian government and Kevin Neish's individual activism in Israel in the face of government opposition.

"Canada [is] supporting Israeli settlement, aggression and occupation in Palestine," said Hanna Kawas another member of the group. "We have given [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon a licence to continue attacks on Palestinians."

The protesters heard several speeches and paused for a moment of silence to remember the many people on both sides of the conflict who have died.

Morton described Israel's recent military operation as offences against humanity. He said Israel has targeted civilians and expanded their control over territory many consider illegally occupied.

Many of the demonstrators said they felt that the Western powers, including Canada, are firmly on the side of Israel. They said they do not believe Canada's recent declarations of impartiality and criticized the US actions in the Middle East.

"[The US] wants to control oil," said Kawas. "They simply don't care about human rights [or] moral values in the Middle East."

Fierce fighting has flared up over the past few weeks in the Middle East with over 60 Palestinians and at least three Israelis killed over last weekend in the West Bank city of Jenin alone.

Demonstrators sympathetic to the Palestinian side said they see these causalities as evidence of a systematic campaign by Israeli forces to use selective killing and forced relocations to terrorize the Palestinian people.

"It looks pretty grim," said Jason Weedmark. "If you look at the situation from a distance, it looks no different from East Timor or Chechnya."

Kawas agreed.

"Genocide is being committed, but the press is not able to report on it [because of the news block],"she said.

Israel has prevented all foreign journalists from reporting on events that have taken place in the combat zone since the flare in hostilities.

Conservative MP calls for tax changes to benefit students

by Mark Greenan

OTTAWA (CUP) – A Progressive Conservative MP recently presented two motions in the House of Commons that would reduce the tax burden on students.

The two motions, presented by New Brunswick MP John Herron, call on the federal government to make scholarships tax exempt and to introduce a tax credit on student loan repayment. Currently, only the first $3,500 in scholarships are not subject to tax.

Herron said the motions, culled directly from the PC Party's 2000 election platform, were important in mitigating the effect of high student debt, which he cited as "the largest deterrent" to participation in post-secondary education.

"Too many of our best and brightest are choosing not to seek higher learning," he said.

"We've indentured an entire generation, where those individuals upon graduation, because they owe over $20,000, will not have the capacity to contribute to the economy."

> Several public opinion polls have shown that Canadians consider post-secondary education to be important. The federal government has to come up with a new strategy to support students.
>
> *John Herron, New Brunswick MP*

However, Herron noted that his proposal for tax credits on student loan repayment would only apply to people living in Canada, which could help stem the "brain drain."

Noting that several public opinion polls have shown that Canadians consider post-secondary education to be important, Herron said that the federal government has to come up with a new strategy to support students.

"The federal government really has to step up to the plate and ensure that we develop a tool kit so that students can pursue a higher education and we can maintain a competitive economy," he said, adding that Ottawa should also increase transfer payments to the provinces.

As yet, it has not been determined if Herron's motion will be debated in the House. A House committee will meet in the coming weeks to determine if the motion will be deemed worthy of a vote.

Liberal MP Reg Alcock, a member of the government caucus on post-secondary education, said that he supports the principle of both motions but would need to understand the costs involved before endorsing them.

"We [the government PSE caucus] continue to look for creative ways to promote accessibility . . . these things are consistent with that," said the Winnipeg MP, adding that he prefers direct funding to universities to keep the costs of tuition down.

Alcock noted that the proposal would see student loans treated in the same way as business investments, which are often tax-deductible.

Student groups applauded Herron's motions, but said that other measures are needed to improve student loan programs.

"We feel this is tackling a lot of student issues," said Liam Arbuckle, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), adding that any reforms must be made within the context of the current system.

"They're not going to scrap the system, that's a reality."

Arbuckle said that CASA has endorsed Herron's proposal, but added that his organization is promoting several other changes to the Canada Student Loans program.

CASA is calling on the federal government to increase the amount that loan recipients can earn before having their loan amounts clawed back, increase the amount allocated for living expenses, reconsider the expected amount of parental contributions and improve the debt remission program

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) said that students would be better served by policies that did not take advantage of the tax system.

"If the money's going to be spent it's much better spent on front-end measures like grants," said CFS national chair Ian Boyko. "Back-end measures have absolutely nothing to do with front-end accessibility."

Boyko added that the CFS is calling for a relaxation of the requirements for the federal debt-remission program and for the government to pay the interest on part-time student's loans, as they currently do for full-time students.

Native Student Union

University of Victoria
Native Student Union

GENERAL MEETING

The NSU invites self-identified UVic Aboriginal Students to attend a year-ending general meeting on Monday, April 15, 2002 at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the SUB, room B028.

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EDITORIAL

Last editorial for you, last call to arms, last chance to rock

When we promised a wild ride in the first editorial in the first week of September we had no idea just how right we would be.

This year has been zany. Our world, our province and community has been rocked.

The first *Martlet* of the academic year came out a week before Sept. 11. A month later we found out that somebody ran off with a heck of a lot of our student society's money. We've been reporting on the controversial antics of the provincial government all year.

Now there's a war going on. Various wars, in fact. People in this world, people with mothers, fathers and kids, are dying, killing each other, being tortured and oppressed. This happens so much that we've come to consider it a given. We don't even notice.

The world, depending on where you live, depending on your socio-economic situation, can be a nasty place. It is, in fact, a nasty place for many. And that's just business as usual.

This is not your fault. This is not my fault. This is not Gordon Campbell's or George Bush's or David Turpin's fault. This is none of our faults.

This is all of our faults.

Do you care about this? Hopefully. Should you act in some way to fix the world? Likely. Can you do something now? Perhaps not directly. But, yes, something.

The way the world works is entrenched but evolving. Changing it will be a long process, especially changing it for the better.

We, us, here and now, on this campus, in this city as part of this country, have an opportunity to make a difference.

We don't care about the nature of your politics.

This editorial is not about left wing against right wing. We debate the pros and cons of political ideology endlessly over beers in Felicitas. It's not about the World Bank and the FTAA, or Israel, the US and Afghanistan. It's not about money. Everybody knows that both capitalism and communism as bottom lines are flawed. They do not work, in effect, because there is no perfect system that can be taken from a textbook and applied to our world.

This editorial is about a better way, a better bottom line, a better personal politic that resists a simple label, which will serve as more than academic rhetoric.

Human experience doesn't fit into these simple categories. It cannot be summarized on the front page of a newspaper or a television news bite. The shape of our communities, the content of our media, the conduct of our politicians, the beauty of our lovers, the outcome of our education, cannot be summarized here and now.

And this inevitably leads us back to our original point, our most important point: That it's all about the relationship between people. That's the universal. That's the bottom line, the end of the equation.

We don't care what you do. Simply be good, be learned and be accountable.

That said, and understood, we want you to do something rather than nothing. Anything.

This, to you, may or may not mean that you could don a cape and hit the streets to fight crime. Or maybe you could chain yourself to a piece of logging equipment, lie down in front of a tank or deface a corporate billboard. How about learn a new language, pore over UVSS policy, write a letter to *the Martlet*, to the *Times Colonist*, to the pope or George Bush. Read your own bad poetry, loudly, in a laundromat. Call your mom.

But do it with vigour. Do it crazy. Do it enormous.

It's passion. In abundance. That makes us human.

If you don't have passion you're dead. Your existence is moot. Or at least very boring and taking up space the rest of us could be using to sew a quilt, bake a blackberry pie or smash the property of the state.

Whether it be standing in the rain on the legislature lawns and shouting yourself hoarse, running in the municipal election, or refusing to buy a certain kind of soup because of the labour practices of the company that puts it out or because it has artificial colours and flavours that will make you sprout a tumour, do something.

Every act is political and being politically active is the key. Vote with your hands, your voice, your stomach, your eyes, your feet.

Volunteer. Learn. Shout. Stretch. Camp. Knit. Garden. Heckle. Write. Discuss. Sing. Love.

Dance like a crazy person.

Turn off the fucking tv and look around you.

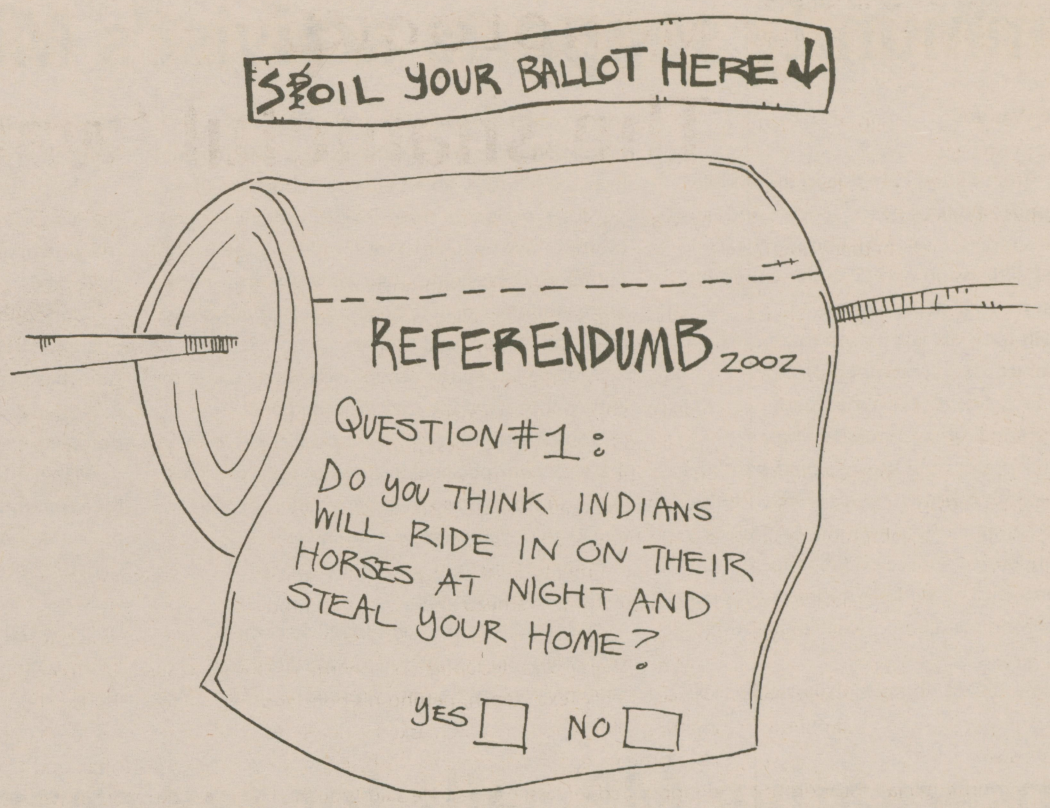
Really, this place isn't so bad but it could be a heck of a lot better.

And with that *the Martlet* editor of the 2001-02 year bids you a fond farewell. Thanks for reading.

Stay gold,
Darren Stewart
Editor
Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**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LETTERS

I really appreciated John Thompson's reporting on an issue that is very underscrutinized by the mainstream press, namely the Agreement on Internal Trade ("Municipalities Outraged by Trade Agreement," *Martlet*, April 4, 2002). The AIT will download unnecessary costs and add legalistic burdens to local governments, academic institutions, social service and health care providers, while compromising their decision-making autonomy. The AIT clearly violates the spirit of the Liberal's promised "Community Charter."

The AIT will require B.C. municipalities, at their own cost, to advertise more widely for any competition for goods or services valued at more than $100,000 or construction contracts over $250,000. The danger in the AIT is that the bar can be raised for advertising requirements at any time in the future and may, in current and future international trade negotiations, require notification beyond Canada to the international trade in services (GATS) regime.

The AIT is designed to empower private business to challenge contract awards made by local governments. A proposed new "Dispute Adjudication Panel" composed of appointees made by a provincial ministry will be created to investigate complaints. Disputes will probably be more frequent and frivolous than in the regular courts, since a company won't have to invest in the same way they would for a civil trial. Some unanswered questions remain: Will municipalities have to bear the costs of postponing projects during a dispute? Who will pay the legal costs to prepare for a dispute?

Municipalities have an impressive track record of using fair, efficient, competitive and non-discriminatory processes to evaluate bids and contract proposals. However, the AIT may prohibit level playing field criteria that add social or environmental responsibility for procurements of supplies, services or tendering of contracts. For all of the above reasons, it's not surprising that a growing number of municipalities are saying "no thanks" to Mr. Campbell's quest for an AIT.

Rob Fleming
City Councillor, Victoria

SOAPBOX

How I love thee, *Martlet*

Let me count the ways

by Lisa Helps

Thirteenth century mystic Thomas Eckhert said, "If the only prayer you say in your life is 'thank you' this is enough." Yes.

Thank you.

To dan, our bizarre and beautiful production assistant who worked more than triple the number of hours he was paid for and who keeps coming back even though we've only let him have his way with plankton in the paper once.

To the lads Craig and Iain, who have spent many a late night as little (okay, big) sports elves pumping out pages that are even better than the cats meow. And to their elf in training, the dedicated and daring sports writer, Ruth Knoop.

To Elly and Anne, our "*Martlet* tarts" who managed to put together fantastic arts pages week after week and who are both just so damn cute.

To our news team: Sarah for her incredible skill and exhilarating adjectives. Kevin for his persistence. John for his consistent writing and maturity and for keeping our Board of Directors in line. Sloppy Sue (whose nickname has only to do with her activities at social events and nothing to do with her writing) for her unfailing dedication, exhaustive work and blue velour track suit.

To Chris, our brilliant and gentle copy editor who catches our mistakes over and over again with the patience of a would-be saint.

To Joanna, whose artistic talent perpetually blows me away, for making the paper look beautiful and androgynous each week.

To Sigrun, who embodies the concept of "Sigrun love" for ensuring a repeatedly solid features section. You are the wings beneath my wings.

To Sho, for making sure all the people who want to say things and sell stuff get to, and for her effervescent enthusiasm.

To Graham, photographer extraordinaire who has sprinted between rugby fields, laundromats and belly dancing classes with the agility of a cheetah.

To Christina, who has kept us all aware of the historical present and whose laugh has more of an effect on the brightness of the office than the fluorescent bulbs.

To Jeff, Jill and Dixon for making sure (in an eco-friendly manner) that UVic students and various Victorians get *the Martlet* hot of the press. And especially to Jeff for his sensitive coverage of everything related to Tibet and for smoking cigarettes with me at *Martlet* functions.

To all of our volunteers without whom we would literally be nothing. Especially to those who go the extra mile or five like Heather Neale, Lorna Mace, Horia Coman, Miranda Post, Kelsey Dundon, Brodie Waddell, Jeff Werner and, of course, David Peaball. And to brilliant mind Simon Glezos, who we wish the best of luck at that ivy league American university he'll be attending next year.

To Corbin and Dawson our canine mascots in abstentia.

To Meesha, new mom of Ruby Rae Chan Grubisic, who has kept us all fed (selling ads) and is leaving for the hot sun of Costa Rica after a 10-year stint at *the Martlet*.

To Beth, whose skill and consistency make the paper look great every week and who can often be found eating brownies and giggling at the helm of her flagship.

And finally, to Darren without whom I simply would not have survived. Incredible editor, inspiring writer, passionate human being and one of my best friends. Thank you for drinking beer, coffee, wine, and for listening to various rants about various people (women mostly, truth be told) and things at various times of the day and night.

[2001/2002]
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MONOLOGUE

The shameful 'war' in the Middle East

by Wael Jabsheh

Suicide bombers hit Israel with gruesome results just before Easter weekend. Following the attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared an 'all-out war' against the Palestinians. He officially branded Yasser Arafat a terrorist and an enemy. In the end he mobilized the fourth-strongest army in the world against the entire territory of the Palestinian West Bank. As you read this, Israeli soldiers actually outnumber civilians in several Palestinian towns and cities: not to mention the fighter jets and attack helicopters flying overhead and the tanks in the streets.

While Sharon was declaring war, George W. Bush sat back in his Texas ranch, petting his dogs and chatting with reporters. When asked a question about the recent developments, Bush said he was disappointed in Yasser Arafat. He said Israel had a right to defend herself, and on that basis he understood her need to take action against what he and Israel call 'terrorism.' Of importance to note is that no other country has endorsed the Israeli action.

The previous day the US had voted in favour of a United Nations resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from West Bank and stop the current occupation and military operations – exactly contrary to Mr. Bush's remarks the next day. No dissenting votes were cast on that resolution.

photo provided

By making his comments, Bush was effectively saying he didn't give a shit about the UN, its resolutions or its authority. He made a mockery of the whole process by voting one way and then taking the exactly opposite position the very next day. He's a cowboy, even on the world stage. It's George's world and we all live in it. The fact is, the US is the only power able to influence the course of the conflict and the president knows it very well.

That leaves me asking: what is the formal White House position on the Israeli military operations in the West Bank? Does anybody in the US know? Does anybody in the White House know?!

The president obviously knows what his position is: Israel has a right to defend herself. It's those darned 'terrorists' again, as he and the US media have often called them since Sept. 11.

The president's decision to draw a parallel between the Sept. 11 attacks and the Palestinians is frighteningly ignorant and irresponsible. Let me remind you that this is the man who answered a question about Canadian Prime Minister 'Poutine' during his presidential campaign. He looked like an absolute ass as it aired in Canada over and over. Yet, nobody in the US picked up on the blunder. Mr. Bush is a man that has demonstrated that he knows little beyond his home state of Texas, and on a good day, maybe the rest of his own country.

I know of no other country, with the exception of

photo provided

Israel, that has equated the Palestinian problem with Sept. 11. To equate the two situations is tantamount to giving Israel the international diplomatic and legal approval to do in the West Bank what the US did to the Taliban and Al Qaeda. You can do to your terrorists as we did to ours.

I know 'terrorism' is a familiar word for Mr. Bush right now and that he prefers not to (or is incapable of) using too many different words. But maybe the president could have taken a little longer to think of an answer under the pressure of having to give one to those reporters. Someone maybe should have briefed the president on how the Middle East conflict is entirely different than Afghanistan.

To simplify it for the president, I would say this:

As far as I can remember, the US was not an occupying power in Afghanistan, didn't confiscate peoples' lands, forcibly displace them, demolish their new homes and run over civilian property with tanks. The US also never uprooted Afghans' crops, fired on their ambulances, turned their schools into military barracks or prevented access to water and electricity. The US never subjected people to city closures and curfews, imprisoning them in their own homes, and creating a stagnant economy with a 70 per cent unemployment rate. The list goes on and on. Go visit www.gush-shalom.org (an Israeli peace group) and you will find links to a number of international and Palestinian sources who report these events. Consider also that over 1,300 Palestinians have been killed in only the last 18 months, mostly civilians. Is this all not terror in itself?

Almost the entire Palestinian population has grown up under these conditions. This is an aggrieved population that has never seen reason for hope. I have been to the West Bank and to Gaza and they are just giant ghettos, worse than any you could ever see. People have nothing, they just walk the streets with no purpose. To describe it as a prison is an understatement. At least in a prison as we know it, you're generally pretty secure.

At the same time, a short drive away is a prosperous and wealthy Israel, whose citizens enjoy all the same amenities available to us here in the West. Hardly the balance needed to foster goodwill and peace among two nations. Hardly the leadership required to foster peace either.

What the US media report day in and day out is that the Israeli Prime Minister is willing to talk peace, so long as there is a cease-fire. What they neglect to mention is that this is a man who has openly opposed the peace process of the 1990's. It was his extremist (dare I say 'terrorist') loyalists who murdered former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin in cold blood at the height of the peace process with none other than Yasser Arafat, the 'terrorist' and 'enemy of the free world' according to Sharon. Sharon was also the man who was found 'indirectly responsible' (by an Israel investigative committee nonetheless) for the massacre of nearly 3,000 Palestinian men, women and children at two refugee camps. His resignation from the Israeli government soon followed, only for Sharon to reemerge as prime minister. He has since surrounded himself with others whose histories are equally bloody. Is this the representation we expect from Israel to talk peace with the Palestinians?

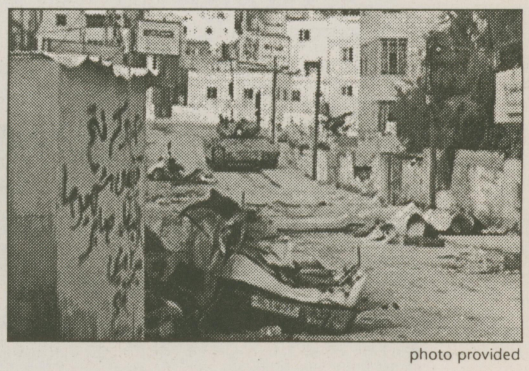
That is the scheme of everyday Palestinian life on the West Bank and Gaza. To the young Palestinian man or woman there is no peace and there is no life. Every Palestinian under occupation is a potential suicide bomber and by Mr. Bush's logic and doctrine every one of them is a target in Israel's own 'war on terrorism.'

Mr. Bush's stance on the Middle East has done nothing but allow the conditions for the entire region, and possibly the world, to get even worse. Mr. Bush needs to recognize that being the only power able to exert meaningful influence on the crisis, the US has a moral and humane obligation to do just that. The president's efforts should exceed simply twiddling his thumbs at his Texas ranch and allowing the two sides to go to 'war.'

This will not be a 'war.' Saying 'war' presumes parity between the two parties. This may be a massacre. Palestinian rifles and stones, and even suicide bombers, cannot repel the air and ground attacks of the most powerful army in the Middle East. A disturbing fact is that suicide bombers are becoming more diverse in gender, which is likely to impact extremely harshly on the female Palestinian people. While the suicide bombers have typically been young males, at least two females, including a 16 year old girl, have recently blown themselves and others to pieces.

These attacks are not entirely unprovoked. While I do not offer justification, I at least provide some understanding and compassion, something Mr. Bush seems incapable of. Someone should tell the president that Palestinian suicide bombers don't kill themselves and others because 'they hate freedom,' a phrase he often likes to use. It is because to them death cannot be worse than life as they live it. Considering the ugly backdrop, Israel, the region and the world are fortunate they do not do it in greater numbers.

George W. Bush would serve his country and the world better by first: expanding his vocabulary, and second: eliminating Palestinian 'terrorism' at its roots. Its roots are the miserable conditions under which they live. As one of the countries with a historical responsibility for the plight of the Palestinians, the US owes a moral responsibility to alleviate Palestinian suffering, not endorse it.



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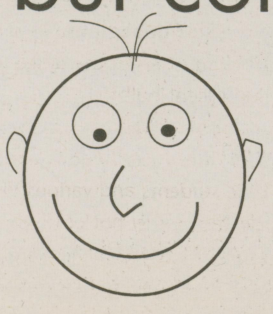
After the Israeli army reoccupied the Al-Amari refugee camp

last *martlet* of the school year...
but come join the summertime fun!
you, too, could be part of the elite *martlet* summer crew



plankton plankton plankton. mwahahaha!

next issue is may 16th!

Economic boon or environmental woe?

Salmon aquaculture on B.C.'s coastline

by Graham Winterbottom

The commercial fishing vessels bounce quietly against the docks of Port Hardy's main harbour. The once familiar whir of motors and nets is now replaced by the fish processing plant that hums with activity night and day, processing the harvest of fish farms in the area.

Mayor Russ Hellberg's voice has a ring of pride in it when he talks of the plant's role as "the largest processing plant in the world, processing over 400,000 lbs of Atlantic salmon."

Today, the salmon aquaculture industry has virtually replaced the commercial fishing industry in Port Hardy. Over 230 people are employed in the plant alone, plus many more in the operation of the 10 farms that dot the bays and harbours of the surrounding coastline. Most of the salmon is destined for markets in the US and Asia.

Many of the communities on the coast of Vancouver Island bear witness to the drastic changes in B.C.'s once thriving resource economy.

The forest sector was already in decline before the softwood dispute. Now it limps along on the crutch of negotiations as mill closures and pink slips spread throughout the island. Meanwhile, the commercial fishing industry, once the independent and adventurous livelihood of so many coastal citizens, allows but a sliver of a season at best.

As a result the coastal communities of the island are in need of alternatives and many are looking in earnest to salmon aquaculture hoping to emulate Port Hardy's success.

These dreams will soon become reality as the Liberal government in the province makes the development of salmon aquaculture more available by lifting the seven-year moratorium on new farm licenses.

They will lift the ban at the end of this month.

But some people's dreams and others' realities don't always mix. The industry has been controversial since it came into existence on the coast of Vancouver Island in the mid 1970s.

In the 25 year history of commercial farming of foreign Atlantic salmon species on the coasts of B.C., the varied interests of the provincial government, First Nations, environmentalists and the industry have failed to reach a consensus on the costs and benefits.

While the debate rages on, B.C.'s productivity slowly shrinks and communities look for alternative answers to job creation in the resource industry field.

The Liberals' decision to lift the moratorium is based on ideology, not science. They are effectively sending the message that we are open for business and are turning the coastline of British Columbia into an industrial feedlot.

Lynn Hunter

Despite the $320 million dollars of wholesale fish that is annually shipped out of the province, we still rank only fourth in the industry behind Norway, Scotland and Chile, all of which have highly developed aquaculture industries supported by their governments.

The other countries have also experienced the negative environmental side effects of having such developed industries. Cases of disease transfer and escaped fish inhabiting wild streams are frequent in places such as Norway where the extent of the industry is so great it is now twice as large as the production of meat.

Environmentalists point to these examples when talking of the dangers presented by the lifting of the moratorium, but B.C. adds another element of risk to the equation. While the Atlantic salmon is native to the waters of Scotland and Norway, it is a foreign species in the waters of B.C. Those who oppose the industry claim Atlantic salmon are an invasive species, that will compete with wild Pacific Chinook, Coho and Sockeye in search for food and habitat.

Meanwhile, industry supporters feel that the threat of Atlantics is unfounded as they are considerably more docile than B.C.'s native stocks.

Regardless of opinion, the jury largely remains undecided as scientific data can be used to support either position.

In 1995 the provincial government set a moratorium on all new licences and began the most comprehensive study in the industry's history. The Salmon Aquaculture Review (SAR) sought input from the various interest groups and attempted to bring to light the many questions surrounding the risks of the salmon aquaculture in B.C. waters.

The review, released in 1997, said the main concerns of farmed salmon breeding with, transmitting disease to or competing with wild stocks is low, effectively giving the government the green light to proceed with the industry.

These findings gave both industry and the government hopes that the industry was finally in the clear.

But not everybody holds the same hope.

Lynn Hunter of the David Suzuki Foundation says the findings of the SAR are completely irrelevant to the industry today as they have become outdated in the five years since they were conducted.

"The Liberals decision to lift the moratorium is based on ideology, not science," she said. "They are effectively sending the message that we are open for business and are turning the coastline of British Columbia into an industrial feedlot."

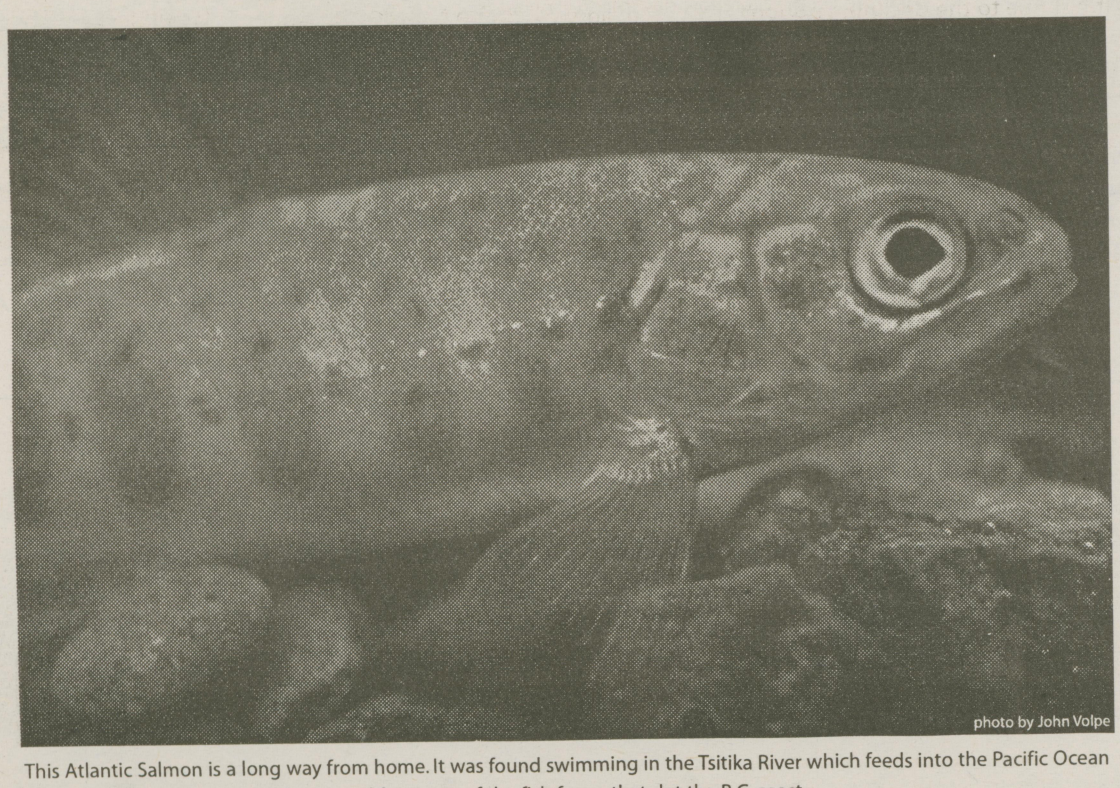
Environmentalists such as Hunter say that the industry in B.C. presents an entirely different situation than those overseas and rather than simply trying to emulate the industries of countries abroad the government should be looking for innovative solutions more suited to the coastal environment of B.C.

"The government needs more time to research and develop the technology needed to create a method of farming that is sustainable," said Suzanne Connell of the Georgia Strait Alliance.

The Alliance is calling for a five-year phasing in period of closed containment systems. These systems would alleviate impacts such as waste on the seafloor and ensure zero interactions with the natural environment.

In the past, land-based systems have failed to be competitive with traditional net cage farms. A land-based farm must compensate for the higher costs of production with increased rearing densities, survival and growth rates.

The government is currently working with Agrimarine Industries and Grieg Seafood to explore the viability of such systems with a project involving eight land-based tanks located in Cedar, near Nanaimo. Although the project is still in the early stages, Rob Walker of Agrimarine Industries sees a future for it on the coasts of B.C.



This Atlantic Salmon is a long way from home. It was found swimming in the Tsitika River which feeds into the Pacific Ocean from Vancouver Island. The fish escaped from one of the fish farms that dot the B.C. coast.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

$7.21 a pound seems like a reasonable price to pay for Atlantic salmon, but what about the hidden environmental and economic costs?

"There is a future for closed systems without a doubt, although it may not be land-based. With low densities, our Coho and Atlantics have done very well," said Walker.

Even Walker admits that it its too early to tell whether closed systems offer a viable alternative to farms in natural systems.

"It is a highly efficient system," said B.C. Fisheries Finfish Aquaculture Specialist Terry Neilson.

"Two hectares of sea is capable of developing 3,500 tones more protein than land can develop in cattle and whereas land takes over 110 years to recover from the impacts of farming, the sea bottom takes as little as one month to a year," said Neilson.

"Salmon aquaculture represents a solution, not a problem," he said, adding that the lifting of the moratorium will not result in a drastic increase in environmental threats.

If anything, it will only succeed in slowing down the system by overloading the already lengthy application process as applicants navigate through the variety of interest groups and federal and provincial regulations.

While Neilson sees obstacles in the regulations, Odd Greydeland, president of the BC Salmon Farmers Association, sees hope. For Greydeland the lifting of the moratorium is a chance for the industry to run business better and expand the 3,400 jobs it currently sustains. He envisions a growing industry where more biologists, regulations officers and consultants will be needed for environmental assessment, site surveys and reports.

Yet the farmers organization is also taking steps to ensure these benefits are spread to all members of the community. In recent years the association has been involved in partnerships with the North Island College to develop custom training programs for native communities interested in developing aquaculture opportunities. The program has proven successful in giving First Nations the skills they need to integrate into the industry.

Yet many First Nations people have mixed feelings towards the industry and the way it's run.

"In its current form there are more negatives than positives," said Wayne Jacob, biologist for the Hamalta Treaty Society in Campbell River.

Although First Nations have seen some benefits in the form of jobs on farms and the transportation sectors, the overall effects have been limited.

Jacob explains that most natives find that they come into the industry not because they support it but due to the declining options available in the commercial fishing sector. The biggest concern the lifting of the moratorium presents for First Nations is the impact that expanding farms will have on the development of shellfish sites, an area that natives are exploring through current treaty negotiations.

For the First Nations of Port Hardy, lifting the moratorium will bring benefits "only if there are strong policies and guidelines that involve us in every area including setting site locations, technical [and] biological concerns related to food and additives, impact studies, et cetera," said Colleen Hemphill, treaty negotiator for the Gwa'Sala Nakwaxda'xw.

For her, the growth of the farm industry must also come with the rebuilding of wild populations.

"Our people have very strong views about the importance of maintaining all wild species in a state that will perpetuate their and our existence for eternity," she said.

The emphasis on regeneration of wild stocks also holds true for fishermen put out of work by the decline in the commercial industry. Commercial fisherman Bob Strom is currently getting out of the industry as world fish prices are driven down by the flooding of farmed fish onto the markets. As he sees it, lifting of moratorium will not present opportunities for other fishermen like himself.

"Moving from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle of cruising the sea to a sedentary lifestyle on the farm is not an easy transition to make. Any fishermen that I know have instead branched out into shellfish and abalone rather than becoming involved in the farm industry," he said.

Strom remains unconvinced of the potential of aquaculture to replace the commercial fishing industry.

"You simply cannot replace the efficiency of the wild stocks by replacing it with farmed species," said Strom.

We will find out after April 30 whether the proposed expansion of the industry will result in the perceived benefits. To ensure this, ongoing consultation and rigorous scientific study is needed to make sure all the risks are fully understood and the benefits are spread to all members of the coastal communities.

While Mayor Hellberg believes that aquaculture has brought nothing but positive benefits to his town, Strom remains unconvinced that economic gain is a trade-off for environmental uncertainties.

"The industry is good for the world but not for this coast," said Strom.

Doing the Maytag shag with Samcoe

by Mark Samcoe

Because a bad pair of jeans can make an ass look big, hyperbole seems a poor fit for laundry. But if you luck out with a damn good pair, and a kickass washer and dryer, then the ass is accentuated and laundry is so much more than a run of dirty clothes through a gauntlet of soap-sudded wash and tumble dry. Think about it.

American poet Stephen Dunn thought about washers and dryers and then wrote in *Road Trip* "what swirls in [these machines] is controlled confusion, which each of us understands."

Lugging a bag or hamper before two hefty machines, asking them to remove the smell of you: the wear, the stains, sweat and smoke. This is what you need to understand.

Look at Santa Claus. He was probably just an obese albino wandering too far from a self-imposed Arctic exile, with a sack of laundry slung over his shoulder, in search of a laundromat. Pity the kids who got a pair of St. Nick's Ben-Gay long johns on Christmas Day.

The laundromat Dunn's narrator frequented "was a place to read and watch what women turn on the delicate cycle for." My laundromat has always been a place to criticize life not imitating that Dentyne Ice commercial where that guy exchanges gum for a deep smooch.

Having a washer and a dryer in your own building or home may seem like a luxury, but sharing the facilities inevitably leads to inconvenience, at which point you make for the laundromat.

Take my first year at UVic as an example. I lived in res where the laundry facility in my building was a humid cell in the basement. I felt like Dante whenever I went down to do laundry.

The washer and dryer were coin-operated, which really sucked because no one ever cleaned the dryer's lint guard and my friend Seth, who cut the edges of pop bottle tops, got in a few free loads before plugging the washer.

Worse, there was no booty to be stolen down there. I doubt anyone ever pulled off that Maytag shag Cosmo keeps raving about. I know the only time I touched panties was when I removed some girl's forgotten underthings from the dryer so I could tumble my boxers.

And then there's my second-year home, where one of my roommates had a habit of forgetting things he'd started. In addition to a block of uncooked tofu squatting in a frying pan abandoned on the stove for several days, there was always a pile of damp clothes mildewing in the washer.

Finally, in my third year I got out. The laundromat on Haultain was the setting. Never before had laundry been like drug-running. Surrounded by graffiti on the L.A. Laker purple and yellow walls, bars on the back windows, and no clerks, I checked my jean pockets for change and rocks of crack.

Once when I was short quarters, I went to the convenience store next door. Inside, a young girl sitting on a stool behind the counter sipped milk from a frying pan through a straw.

The upsides of Haultain are the dryer that tumbles for free and the sketchy anonymity afforded by the perpetual near-emptiness of the place and the porn, purchased next door, to pass the time.

I haven't been back since I moved from the area and rumours of guerrilla poetry readings there have me scared just thinking about what goes on. As if *Poetry in Transit* and Gord Downie hadn't done enough to destroy the credibility of the written word, now you can pick up scabies and bad lines of poetry all in one colourful spin cycle.

But really, I should be thankful for the ghetto aesthetic, because what really sends me scrambling for the stain remover are the laundromats that try to distract with parlour tricks and extraneous detail.

One laundromat, inventively called The Laundry, which advertises itself with the nonsensically pro-hard-on slogan "Use a Big One, Get a Big One," shows movies on Friday nights. I've never been to a movie theatre that had washers or dryers. Whoever thought it should go the other way, reducing laundry to a sideshow of gimmickry. They'd better pray they don't get a visit from MC Hammer. No one's going to rescue them with a "Please Hammer, don't hurt 'em" when the Funky Headhunter returns.

But, "Not all laundromats are sad."

Squeaky's Laundromat, or Launderette, depending on which sign you read, understands metaphor. The washers and dryers have names like Bogart, Apollo, Kermit and Princess Leia. You know you're not just throwing a load into a Maytag, but the belly of a film star or a muppet. That's fucking interesting.

The clerks are smart too. They know what all the coloured symbols mean. There's even a resident dog there most days, though it's the size of a sock and I'm always afraid that I'll step on it.

There are all sorts of weird happenings there. On Sept. 11 when I bought four dozen coat hangers, the clerk told me America was at war with itself.

"Wow," I said as I paid up, went home to hang things up, thinking that "what swirls in [these machines] is controlled confusion."

Van Wilder not all bad

by Pamela King

I came to university last September looking for direction. I was confident that by the end of eight months I would be ready to pick a path and go with it. Now it's April. And the only thing I know for sure is that, although it's a poor film, *National Lampoon's Van Wilder* does have some redeeming qualities.

Van Wilder is not the worst movie that I have ever seen. It does have its moments but most of them are overshadowed by jokes involving racial stereotypes, obesity, canine semen and human excrement.

While the plot often leaves something to be desired, *Van Wilder's* title character, portrayed by the charismatic Ryan Reynolds, is surprisingly likable.

A student at Coolidge College for seven years, Van has no intention of graduating. He is generally a good guy, wanting only to postpone the real world so that he may continue to throw parties for geeks, raise money for the swim team and employ sidekicks of racial minorities.

When he meets student journalist Gwen (Tara Reid), Van begins to realize that he can't hide from his future forever. Although he would like his future to involve Gwen, she is currently involved with an arrogant and unappreciative frat boy.

It all works out in the end. Van graduates, Gwen dumps her boyfriend, and our faith in the world is reaffirmed. As heartwarming as it all is, there are just a few queries I would like to make. Why is the only Indian character in the film named Taj Mahal? Where is the humour in mocking an overweight man in a Speedo? How did this film manage to get produced?

In seeing *Van Wilder* my goal was to somehow find a link between college as portrayed in film and my own university experience thus far. I hoped that, after trudging through the film's general crappiness, I would emerge with some kind of insight.

If you subtract all of the political incorrectness and crude jokes from *Van Wilder*, you are left with a fairly normal guy simply trying to figure out what to do with his life.

Van just might be onto something. I have been reminded that I do not need to know what to do with the rest of my life after only eight months. College isn't just a preparation for the work world, it's an exercise in self-discovery.

Van Wilder is not completely incapable of being relevant. Its plot may be contrived and its jokes may not be funny, but if you dig through all of the shit, you just may find a little piece of yourself.

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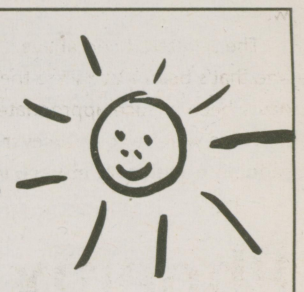

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Rewarding corporate misconduct

by Simon Rolston

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:
Of shoes, and ships, and sealing wax,
Of cabbages, and Kings,
And why the sea is boiling hot,
And whether pigs have wings."
Lewis Carroll, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*

photo by Horia Coman

And the Poison Piglets Award goes to. . . .

Can one expect a corporation to have a conscience, when it has no soul to be damned and no body to be kicked?

So asked Eddie Thurlow some time in the 18th century. Well Eddie, times haven't changed; corporations are still hamming things up and politicians (read: corporate supporters) are unable (read: unwilling) to hold them accountable. That's why their efforts were recognized last Sunday at the sixth annual Corporate Golden Piggy Awards.

Held at the Roxy Theatre, the Golden Piggy Awards featured local Victoria talent in skits, parodies and songs all aimed at those aforementioned leaders of (under) development. The award categories included "Poison Piglets Award," "Hog Wild, Corporate Unaccountability Award," "Freedom to Oppress the Freedom of the Press Award" (my favourite) and more.

It was a star-studded event. Ronald McDonald, Sam the Dioxin Man, General Dynamics, a (neon!) farmed salmon, Conrad Black, Izzy Asper and other such celebrities made appearances.

Business was booming.

A brigade of young, up-and-coming activists (including an enthusiastic Harry Potter) chased a pig-masked Coca-Cola CEO and a corporate lawyer out of the theatre shouting "solidarity forever!" Margaret Thatcher and Osama Bin Laden accepted an award on behalf of their friend George Bush (Sr.). Daddy Warbucks tossed wads of cash; Little Orphan Annie took a bullet. All the while, Gordon Campbell lurked near the audience, searching for the occasional open wallet.

The splattered egg above the Roxy's film screen – the one that's been there since the first release of E.T. – has never been in such appropriate company.

There were songs. The ever present grunting and snorting occasionally erupted into a sing-along cadence prompted by some damn fine tunes. These were not, obviously, the background melodies of the American cinematic experience. Although occupying the same space as recent blockbusters, the performers were not towing the generic party line. They were colouring (and dancing) outside of it.

The master of ceremonies, Alan Venn, was in top form. His comments and anecdotes were witty and insightful. I must wholeheartedly agree with a letter he read to the audience written by a "Joe and Jane Taxpayer." We should all adopt a "Personal Flexibility Bill" allowing us to defer all bill payments and provincial taxes until further notice. As noted by Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, Gordon Campbell's "Liberal" government has set an outstanding example we should follow.

"When you don't like something, legislate it away," said the mock Campbell.

Arguably, the strongest form of resistance is humour. Parody has power, satire has strength. Although it is now quite apparent that the idealism of the 60s will not be realized on a global scale, or perhaps even on a provincial scale, there does seem to be some movement on the local level. Perhaps this is just as important. Communities build municipalities, municipalities build provinces and provinces build nations. Local resistance to unethical corporate and political behaviour is as important as national and multi-national resistance. All in all, it was good lefty fun.

Tonight, I dream "of tasting pork tomorrow."

Phoenix Theatre rises again

by Al Newton

The Phoenix theatre will be undergoing some exciting changes for their 2002-2003 season. In addition to presenting two main stage productions in the fall, the Phoenix will also be launching the FIND festival.

FIND will present original stagings of local Canadian playwrights in hopes of giving a forum to the amazing and varied skills of home-grown talents. The theatre will also stage a series of readings in the Barbara Mcintyre studio which will present new works from students in the creative writing department.

In the long-standing tradition of main-stage productions, the Phoenix is presenting Molere's French comedy *The Imaginary Invalid*, a parable about a hypochondriac, his scheming wife, a cheeky servant and a cast of lecherous doctors. The play examines the doctor-patient relationship with Molere's unique blend of pointed satire and lacerating wit. *The Imaginary Invalid* will be guest-directed by Roy Surette who is also artistic director of the Belfry theatre.

For its second main stage offering, the Phoenix presents Bertolt Brecht's musical indictment of Nazi Germany in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. The play presents the rise of Adolf Hitler by relating the action to the gangland takeover of a grocery store. Brecht's philosophy of laughing off tyrants shines through in this irrepressible comedy which will make the audience laugh and examine a difficult subject in world history. The play will be treated to a new translation by professor of theatre history Dr. Jen Wise and will be directed by department chair Brian Richmond. Wise and Richmond's last collaboration spawned the popular re-interpretation of Aristophanes *Frogs*.

The Phoenix theatre is offering a season which presents not only classic pieces from theatre history but also provides a vital forum for original Canadian talents. The theatre's new philosophy is in part thanks to the influence of new department chair Brian Richmond. Richmond enjoyed success with the fantastical epic *Peer Gynt* and seems hopeful that the Phoenix Theatre will continue to be a relevant and exciting artistic forum in its latest incarnation.

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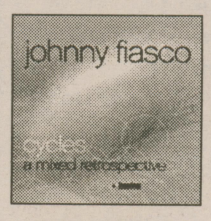
CD REVIEWS

Miguel Graca
Monkey Mass
Bombay Records

by Miranda Post

Miranda's beach checklist: cigarettes, baby oil, Tom Collins, towel and *Monkey Mass*, the newest, cheeky offering from Montreal producer/dj Miguel Graca on Bombay Records. Rarely do I put a cd in my stereo that grabs me in the ass from the get go. Mixing his sense of chill with his Portuguese warmth, smart sampling and a bit of crunchy I.D.M. stuff that is the Montreal trademark these days, Graca comes up with a much more listenable lp than his last, *Shining Stars*. Smoky, cool and a little dangerous like my menthols, skip to "Son of Sun" a track that Graca co-produced with Bombay exec Nav Bhinder. For simmering in the sun avec l'huile de bebe, listen to my favourite "Somesay" with its billowing bass, seagull samples and shake-shake latin rhythms. *Monkey Mass:* If you're not religious like me but the odd Sunday sunshine mass a great audio backdrop, this is the album.



Johnny Fiasco
Cycles – a mixed retrospective
Bombay Records

by Miranda Post

Johnny Fiasco is one of those dudes in the house music industry that you've heard of, you've probably never seen dj (unless you were rocking out at the Shelter in Chicago in the early 1990s) but you've definitely danced to his music at the hand of local house turntablists. Now he's released *Cycles – a mixed retrospective* on Bombay and you can have all those dancefloor diamonds on one proverbial string. Throughout the album there are peaks and valleys, ups and downs of both pitch and tone, that map out Fiasco's much-respected production history. The music moves from housey and ravey to techy, bleepy and bloopy, ending off with classic "Disco Follies" that winds the session down in a decidedly disco-house up swing.

The Rose
Mediaeval Baebes
Nettwerk

by Stewart M. Wood

This one's tricky. Not Tricky, just tricky. The Mediaeval Baebes experience is a seductive one; lush vocals, summery instruments and a lilting, shimmering production. What's not to like? Imagine a bunch of deeply attractive women frolicking about in sunlit meadows and suchlike. Pretty good start. Add some suggestive titles "Lick the Maypole," "The Sour Grove," "The Circle of the Lustful" and I'd say you're onto a winner.

Well, not quite. I really like the Mediaeval Baebes, but they trouble me. I found myself thinking in "A Knight's Tale" mode, all "gadzooks" and "odds bodkins, sire" and thinking about polishing my lance. Not the most comfortable place to be. On the other hand, there are much worse things to be doing than listening to Ye Faire Hotte Womynne and thinking about polishing my lance.

Um, I think I've decided that I love it, on second thought. Who could resist a band with a singer called Cylindra Sapphire?

It's certainly a polished recording, a bit like a classical album, clean and spacious, but high production values also reveal the shortcomings of the voices. This strengthens their appeal though. They are edgy. They rock out, if such a thing is possible with a 14th-century Chaucer-penned tune like "Slay Me Suddenly." As a result it's more garage than conservatory and this is why *The Rose* is so appealing. Mediaeval Baebes are probably one of the most alternative bands around right now.

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Good food, good grades

by Anne Larrass

With hours of studying and late nights, we often forget to fuel our bodies and brains with good and nutritious food. How many of us have grabbed a quick bite to eat at the Munchie Bar or at Finnerty's, coffee spilling out of our plastic mugs as we rush to make it to our early morning class? If you didn't have the time to enjoy breakfast at home, you probably didn't make yourself a lunch either, right?

We all know that a balanced diet, (sorry, no McDonald's or Dairy Queen), provides our daily fat, carbohydrate, vitamin and protein needs, all necessary to keep us going. While many of us claim to have no time to eat or sleep because we are so busy with school and work, eating right is known to increase mental performance.

If you don't have time to cook yourself a meal the day before, or to make yourself a sandwich, at least grab a carrot, apple or some other fruit to ward off those free radicals that cause nasty colds and headaches.

Here's a list of foods and some tips for starting your healthy eating habits:

1. Eat your vegetables raw or lightly steamed for maximum enzyme and vitamin intake. The top 10 vegetables are tomatoes, red bell peppers, carrots, sweet potatoes, winter squash, kale, broccoli, spinach, purple cabbage and eggplant.

2. For a great source of protein, eat nut butters, like almond, cashew, sesame or sunflower seed butter. Nut butters contain essential fatty acids, omega-3 alpha-linolenic acid and omega-6 linoleic acid, important for brain function. Another great source for omega-3 fatty acids is cold-pressed flax seed oil and fish. And according to Jane O'Halloran, a local naturopath, who has been practicing in Victoria for 15 years, pumpkin seeds are "universally a great food" because they contain high levels of essential acids.

3. To increase your iron intake, especially for vegetarians, eat dried fruits like raisins, bananas, apricots, pineapple and prunes. These are perfect snacks between classes!

4. For all of you UVic athletes, you can quickly boost your potassium with a banana, a handful of peanuts and raisins, or a spoonful of nutritional yeast after your workout. And try to stay away from caffeine. It not only overstimulates but also dehydrates the body, said O'Halloran.

"Good food is part of avoiding illness," said O'Halloran, who comes in contact with students suffering from colds on a regular basis. "Food is our safety net," she added. Of course we all love junk food, but it has to be consumed in moderation.

Now that you are all inspired to eat better, remember to enjoy a little bit of sunshine every day. It increases your vitamin D production and adds a little bit of happiness to your day! Don't procrastinate too much though!

photo by Anne Larrass

Fruits and vegetables will help you get the grades you want. Call today!

Ten things to do in Victoria while you're alive

by Heather Neale

graphic by Joanna Wong

If you are willing to brave Victoria's abysmal job market, stay here and enjoy the summer. There's more to life than saving up for next year's tuition. Cut out this list, tape it to your fridge, the dashboard of your car or the inside of your bike helmet and you're guaranteed to have more fun than a barrel of hippies.

1. The Ocean Pointe Resort screens outdoor movies every Sunday evening at sundown under the stars during July and August. This is the perfect set-up for a steamy-hot date. It's free, it's right on the water and you can bring a fuzzy blanket to sit on, along with maybe a picnic basket full of fruit, bread or sparkling apple juice. (Wine is better if you can smuggle it in.) *King Kong* was one of the highlights last summer. I had to grab my date's arm at the scary parts (wink wink).

2. If you enjoy the feel of the wind in your face, take off down the Galloping Goose trail on roller blades or a bike. Some people even jog the trail. (Be sure to pack along some water though – it gets really hot out there.) It's a great way to spend a scenic day and the trail takes you out as far as Sooke. (Not to mention, it runs right by Borden's Liquor Store on the way home so you can pick up something cool to drink on the patio.) At the end of August bring a bucket because the blackberries are ripe and great with ice cream.

3. The Rowing Club at the Selkirk Buildings has social hours on Wednesday evenings for keen kayakers. It's only seven dollars to rent a kayak for three hours and you can tour the inner harbour at magic hour – you know, when the sun is low in the sky and everything looks warm and fuzzy. Be careful though, last time I went, a float plane failed to see the lone straggler that was holding the rest of the group back (me) and I almost became seal bait.

4. The patio at Suze on Yates Street is home to exquisite martinis named after insects for fun. (The tsetse fly is the best). Plus their Phad Thai will leave you ordering another. Other patios to drink on this summer are the upper deck at the Sticky Wicket, the Tapas Bar in Trounce Alley and the Canoe Club. Make sure when you visit the Sticky Wicket that you wear your volleyball gear. There is nothing better than volleyball after a couple hours spent drinking beer in the sun.

5. The petting zoo at Beacon Hill Park is ideal for animal lovers. If you have kids, you're in luck because there is a water park just around the corner. (This also applies if you are a big kid at heart, a big kid in an adult's body or someone who just doesn't care.) I've been spotted running through the sprinklers once or twice myself.

6. Frisbee golfers, the time is now. The Juan de Fuca course in Colwood is the obvious choice, but who says you can't try out something new? Pender Island is only a ferry ride away, as is Saltspring, and you usually meet kindred spirits on the ferry. There is also a scenic course in Nanaimo if you're up for a cruise over the Malahat. Also check out the object course at UVic (www.lot10.org/).

7. Victoria is famous for its romantic sunsets. If you haven't seen them before, write this down and see them all: Cattle Point, Ogden Point and the Chinese Cemetery in Oak Bay are good for your soul. Gonzales Beach and Gyro Park are breathtaking too. If you are a little more adventurous, make the trek out to Mystic Beach or Sombrio and spend the night among the trees.

8. Musicians and comedians line the streets along Government Street from Yates to the legislative buildings. The Causeway in front of the Empress is also host to comedians like 'Red,' who wears animal print undies, juggles fire and humiliates passersby. Tourists eat this stuff up. If you like people-watching, this is the place for you.

9. Government Street holds a market every Sunday afternoon that is worth checking out if you like local artwork, funky clothes and the Peruvian guys that play Abba songs. Plus you meet incredible people while hanging out in the sun. Also check out the Moss Street Market on Saturdays and follow it up with a stroll down by the water. Clover Point, at the end of Moss Street, is home to kite-flying aficionados and skateboard-windsurfers.

10. Cook Street Village is the perfect place to pass three, four . . . ten hours drinking cappuccinos and getting a tan. The Moka House and Starbucks, directly across the street from each other, accommodate everyone and if you're not careful, you might find ogling eyes looking your way. As the hours tick by you can follow the sun and switch patios. Also, there is a great used-furniture shop and a used-book store nearby to putter through while you sip.

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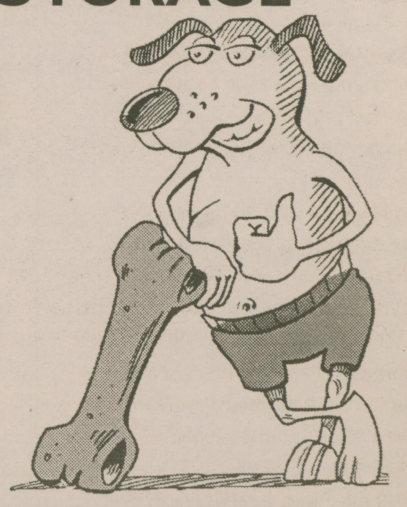

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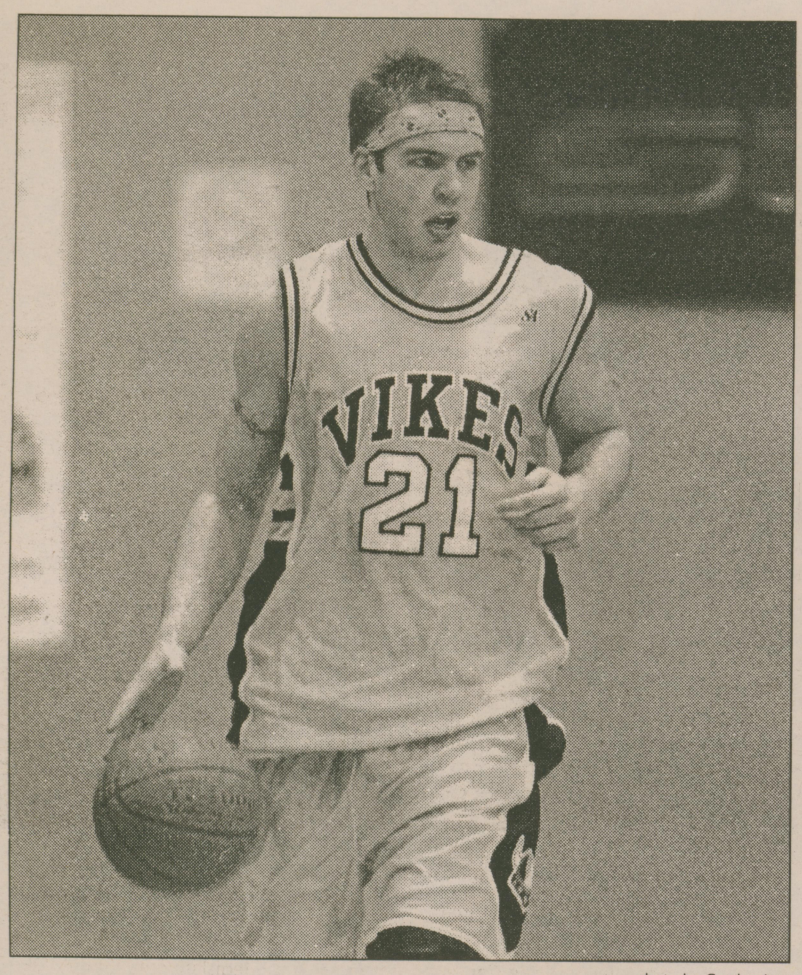

photo by Gordon Lee

In the past Blazin Hoops league has boasted such talent as Vikes' forward Jason Crawford. Last summer Crawford averaged 25.5 points and 9 rebounds in six games.

Blazin Hoops takes Victoria

by Craig Battle

Ask Hamead Rashead what makes the Blazin Hoops League different from other summer basketball leagues and he'll give you a simple answer.

"There's no 'G' on the Blazin," he said. "We do things a little different."

The league features all-star games, three-point and dunk competitions, awards ranging from player of the week to player of the year, and regularly updated season statistics posted on the league's Web site (blazinhoopsleague.com).

Rashead, an alumnus of Cowichan Secondary in Duncan, is the first to point out that the BHL is far from traditional.

He often fields questions like, "You guys have all-star games. What's that all about?"

"Well, we're having fun here," he said. "We don't want to fall asleep while we're playing basketball."

Rashead and Lucky Walia, also a Cowichan grad, started the BHL two years ago in Duncan. The pair met some skepticism early on.

"In our first year when we were just trying for four teams, people were laughing at me," he said. "They didn't think we could do it."

The league fielded eight teams in 2001. Ten signed up the following year. Now, in its third season, the league has spread both up and down Vancouver Island to include Nanaimo and Victoria.

Rashead expects at least 12 teams in Duncan this year. Even though sign ups are still a month away he has already received confirmation from six teams in each Victoria and Nanaimo.

Players can sign up in groups, with a minimum of nine players, or as individuals. Individuals enter the BHL draft from there.

"It's not going to be all individuals on one team," Rashead says. "We want to make all the teams even."

League organizers have recently been touring high schools, trying to drum up new membership. This way, Rashead said, Island basketball programs can keep in practice over the less-structured summer months.

The camp also offers special consideration to entrants who can't afford the $135 entrance fee. Players can offer their time as stats keepers to earn their keep.

"When I was in high school I couldn't shell out that kind of money," Rashead said. "If I could, I'd run the league for free."

While Blazin Hoops "is meant for a player who's never played before to a player who plays every day," the league is currently just for men ages 15 and up. But Rashead hopes to soon add women's and juniors' brackets.

The league runs from May 19 to Aug.18 on Wednesdays and Sundays. Organizers created the schedule to avoid conflict with the Vikes' Spring League, which plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of June.

"We're not here to compete against other leagues," said Rashead.

The BHL season ends with a three-day, tri-city tournament, which moves South from Nanaimo. All teams play a minimum of 15 games, with a possibility of 25.

"I don't know why this hasn't been going on for 50 years, to be honest."

Splashing around the pool with Vike Danielle Bell

Last week, *Martlet* sportswriter Ruth Knoop sat down with UVic swimmer and Commonwealth Games team member Danielle Bell. Sparks flew.

by Ruth Knoop

Just 18-years-old, already a veteran of the Pan American games and a member of the Canadian Commonwealth Games team, UVic swimmer Danielle Bell is an up-and-coming national star.

Born and raised in Victoria, Bell graduated from Belmont Secondary last year and joined the Vikes in September. She has been swimming competitively since she was seven years old.

"My parents always had me in swimming lessons," Bell said." I just liked being in the water."

This year Bell placed third in the 800 metre freestyle at the Canadian Intervarsity Sport national championships and also broke two previous UVic records in the 200 metre and 400 metre.

Recently she finished first in the 800 metre freestyle at the Commonwealth Games trials in Winnipeg and secured a place on the Commonwealth team.

She also received the Victor Davis Memorial Award, which is presented to eight up-and-coming swimmers across Canada, and the Vikes' Robert T. Wallace Shield award for outstanding first-year athlete.

Bell is currently undergoing an intense training regime. She practises 10 times a week and also weight trains when she can fit it in.

She is in the pool at 5:15 a.m. four mornings a week and every afternoon she jumps back in for another two-and-a-half-hour training session. How does she do it?

"I have to drag myself out of bed every morning at 4:30 a.m.," she said. "It gets easier in the afternoon. I do not get a lot of sleep though. I was smart though and only took four courses this semester."

When asked what motivates her, the answer is simple: her teammates.

"When the people I swim with do really well, it motivates me to do well."

Bell is excited about the Commonwealth Games, which take place in Manchester, England, in August, and hopes to reach the finals.

Her biggest goal, though, is the Olympic games.

"I want to make it to Athens 2004."

As for her accomplishments so far, she regards her performance at the Pan Am games last summer as her finest to date. She placed fifth in the 800 metre freestyle, amongst stiff international competition.

"I loved it there," she says. "It was an awesome experience."

And as much as Bell enjoys Victoria, UVic was not her first choice of schools.

"I was thinking of going to UBC or maybe down South on scholarship but I really wanted to train with the coach here," she said. She names Peter Viszolyi, the UVic swim coach, as the greatest influence on her swimming career.

"Otherwise I would have left."

But now, as she finishes off her first year, she is glad she chose to be a Vike.

"I'm used to swimming with people who have some goals. Varsity isn't as serious," she said. "It was a big change. I have a lot of fun and I love it here. The people I swim with are great."

As for her future outside of swimming, Bell is still unclear.

"I'll probably be here 'til 2020," she jokes. "For now, I will just stick to general courses – I am in first year."

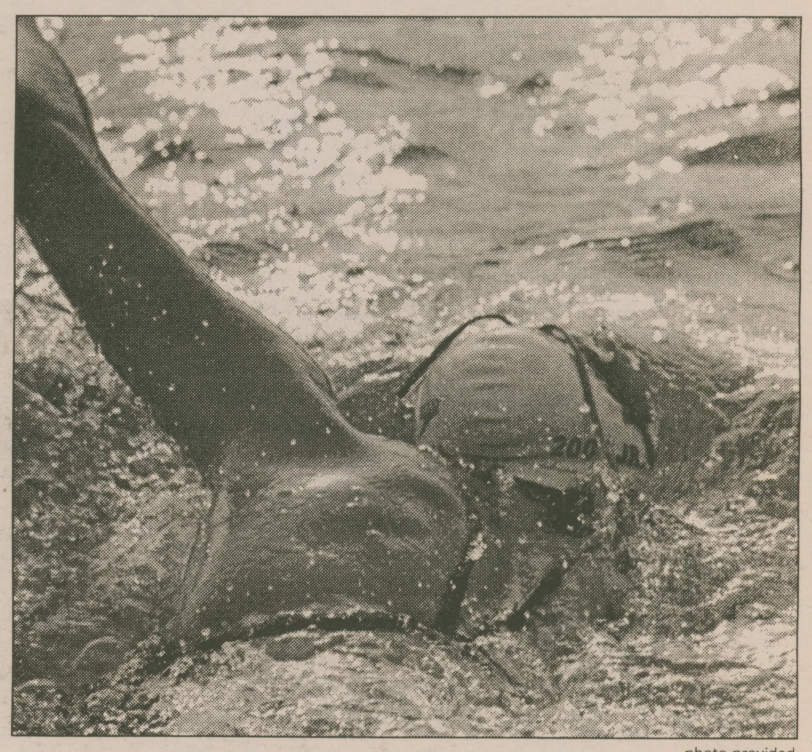

photo provided

Danielle Bell reaches for the top finish in the 800-metre freestyle at the Commonwealth Trials.

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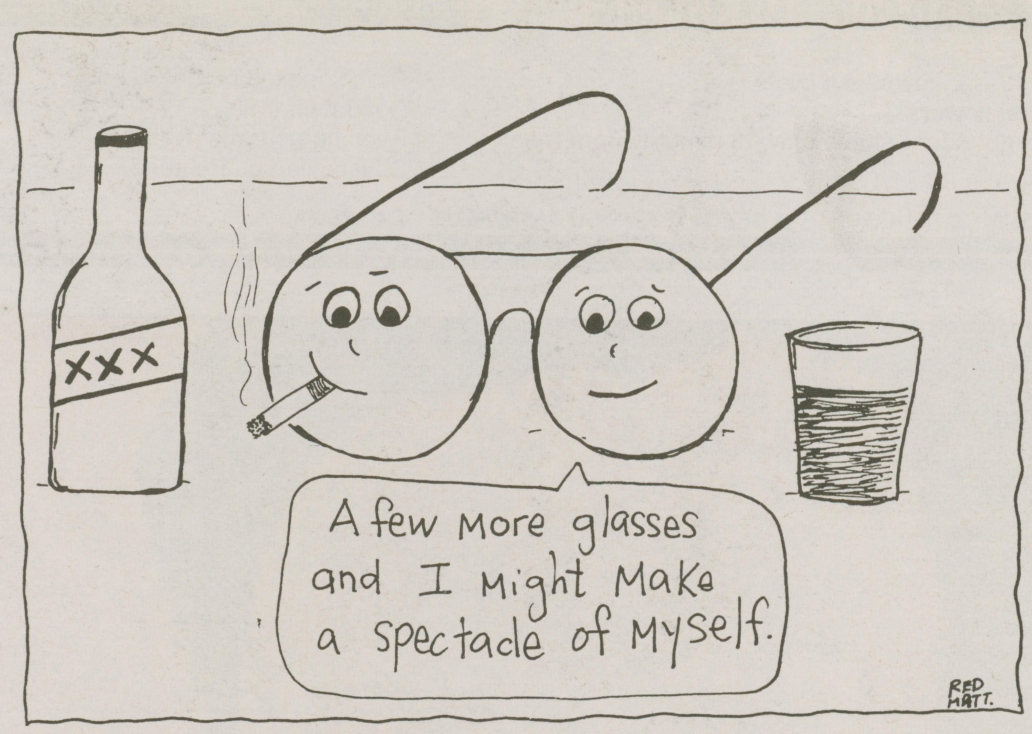

A man walks in to a bar with a giraffe...
He starts buying the giraffe beer after beer...
When the giraffe passes out, the man starts to leave...
The Bartender says 'you can't leave that lyin' there'...
The man says thats not a lion, it's a giraffe.
A Comic Strip.
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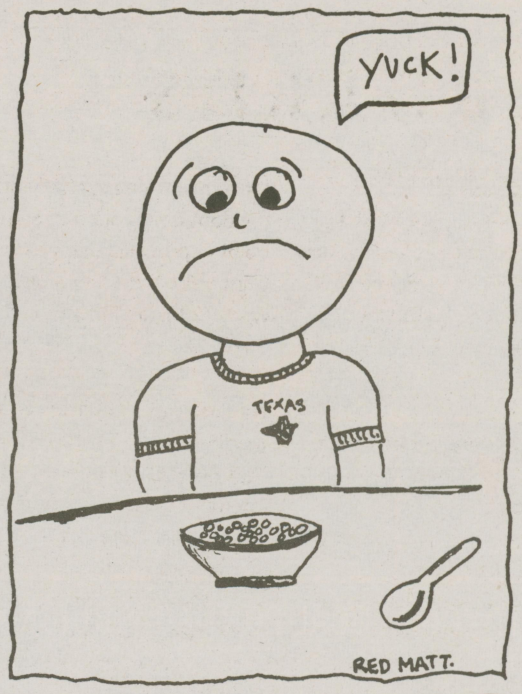
HERE'S ONE FROM HAROLD SMITH. "DEAR SAM AND FUZZY. I LOVE THE COMIC, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT FUZZY IS. LIKE, IS HE A CAT, OR SOME KIND OF HAMSTER?"
HAMSTER!?!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! GIMME HIS ADDRESS... I'LL DESTROY HIM!
WHAT!?! IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE!
HA!!!
OBVIOUSLY THIS GUY IS A COMPLETE MORON, SAM.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, FUZZ... "PLEASE DON'T THINK I'M STUPID, 'CAUSE I'M NOT. AFTER ALL..."
"... I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY SAM WAS A GIANT COCKROACH."
COCKROACH!?!
HUH! I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU LOOKED MORE LIKE A DUNG BEETLE.



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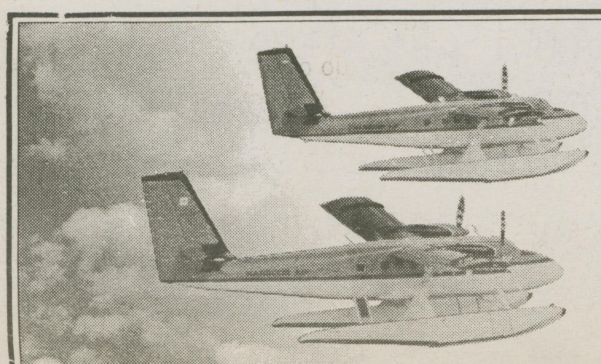

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